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RECEIVED

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Mr. Baker,

I am writing concerning the Kennecott Utah Copper "Cornerstone Mine Expansion Project". My concern is the Kennecott mine waste containing lead and arsenic which comes down the canyon through the water system and is deposited around my home and farm. In the past, storm waters from cloudbursts have washed out the waste rock creating mudflows which have spilled into the creek contaminating the ground around where I live.

At the Open House, sponsored by Kennecott, company representatives stated that the handprint of the mine waste dumps would not be enlarged. They stated that the mine expansion material would be stacked on the existing dumps. This would prevent the toxic waste from entering Butterfield Creek drainage area. In *Kennecott's Large Mining Operation 2011 Annual Report* (p.1), the question is asked, "Where is the waste located?" The answer states, "Waste rock was placed on top of existing waste rock disposal areas, around the perimeter of the open pit."

From my observations, it appears that the mine waste dump handprint is being enlarged. Waste rock has been hauled and dumped over existing dumps enlarging the boundaries and covering the vegetation. The rills in the waste dump have been filled with fine crushed mine waste material. This has taken place in the Castro Gulch area of Butterfield Canyon.

The expansion and the enlarged handprint of the mine waste dump in the Castro Gulch have set up conditions for a mine waste blowout in this area. The existing dump has been enlarged by covering the rills with fine crushed rock and powder. In the event of heavy storm water flow the fine mine waste covering the rills would be eroded, sending mud waste down the gulch, filling the sedimentation basins and cut-off walls, thus sending the mudflow down to enter the Butterfield Creek. The enlarged dump has destroyed the trees, scrub brush, and natural vegetation at the bottom of the old existing dump. Without this protective vegetation, storm water would again erode the mining waste. The uncontrolled storm waters would overflow the sedimentation basins with mine waste, topping the cut-off walls and would again enter the Butterfield Creek.

The Castro Gulch has a history of many mine waste blowouts depositing toxic mine waste mudflows into the Butterfield Creek. The largest waste blowout occurred in 1967. There have been many smaller mudflows between 1970 and 1997. The present sedimentation basins, cut-off walls and collection systems have helped to prevent the mine waste mud from entering the Butterfield Creek, but the new mine expansion presents a new contamination problem for Kennecott and its down-stream neighbors.

The Cornerstone Mine Expansion and the enlargement of the waste dumps in the Butterfield Canyon will continue to present contamination problems for us as the down-stream neighbors to Kennecott. I am asking that before existing permits are updated and before new permits are issued that neighboring landowners be invited to meet with the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining to express our concerns. Our main concern is that Kennecott must find better ways for the containment of its hazardous waste material, especially during storm events, or we, as its down-stream neighbors, will have the same problems as in the past. Our land has not been cleaned up from past storm run-off events which have contaminated our land with both lead and arsenic.

A history of the mining in Butterfield Canyon goes back to 1876. There have been many mining operations that have been bought and sold. Some mining companies have gone out of business and new companies have purchased their land interests. Kennecott Copper, over years of operation, has purchased all the land north of the Butterfield Creek. They now use this land to store their mine waste. They also operate sedimentation basins, cut-off walls, and water collection systems there. The old mine tunnels in this area are used to help with dewatering of the Bingham pit.

The purchase of the historic mining interest by Kennecott has made it possible to expand their present Bingham Canyon mine. Many of these old mining companies did not have the knowledge or technology needed to mine the minerals without contaminating the water or land. Today, Kennecott has the knowledge, technology, and resources to mine the minerals without contamination of water or the land. Kennecott has purchased these historic land and mining interests to help them with their future expansions. They have no desire in cleaning up historic mining problems.

My purpose for mentioning the mining history of Butterfield Canyon is to stop the contamination on my land as a down-stream neighbor to Kennecott. Kennecott purchased old mining companies that had contamination problems. They need this land to expand their mining operations now. The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining are the ones who issue permits for future expansion. It seems the ethical thing to do would be to require Kennecott to set aside resources to clean up the historic mining contamination problems before expansion is allowed. Kennecott also needs to clean up the neighboring lands which they have polluted during their own operations.

Mining is important in Utah but should not be at the expense, health or safety of neighboring lands. Mining regulations can help the mining corporations and still be considerate of the safety of neighboring communities. Rio Tinto has shown philanthropy through contributions, grants, scholarship, etc. to the people

of the Salt Lake valley. Rio Tinto's resources have come from mining. If they can use their finances and resources to enlarge a positive reputation to the community as a "good neighbor to the state of Utah", why shouldn't they first use their knowledge, technology and those same resources to clean up land which they have polluted which belongs to their down-stream "real" neighbors? Kennecott professes to be a "good neighbor". They ask the public to "take a closer look". We, as the land owners of the adjacent and down-stream lands, ask you, the Department of Oil, Gas and Mining to take a "closer look" at Kennecott. With this information, past historic problems, current pollutions, and plans for expansion, do you feel Kennecott is a "good neighbor" worthy of new permits to expand their operations in the methods they are now planning?

Please take this information and our concerns into consideration as you deal with Kennecott and the decisions you must make when you issue permits. We realize Kennecott is a large corporation and we are down-stream property owners. We hope you will honor the rights of landowners as well as wealthy corporations as you make these decisions. We trust you will value the health, safety, and concerns of the people in the community that are affected by Kennecott's proposed expansion.

Sincerely,  
Boyd W. Dansie

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